पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबू लाल मरांडी) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां । पर्यावरण सेक्टर के लिए उपयुक्त ऋण विधि और प्राथमिक क्षेत्र के ऋण के अन्तर्गत प्रदूषण नियंत्रण प्रणालियों के लिए निधियां देने की आवश्यकता के बारे में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के साथ चर्चा की गई है ।

Building Norms for Cantonment Towns

1893. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no building norms have been framed for cantonment towns by the Ministry of Defence despite continuous follow-up from the Ministry of Environment and Forests; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) for how many years the Ministry of Environment and Forests is making efforts to get such building norms framed and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) All Cantonment Boards in the country have framed their building bye-laws under Section 186 of the Cantonments Act, 1924 to regulate building activites in their respective areas. Ministry of Environment and Forests had, in November, 1986, requested the Ministry of Defence to formulate scheme of restrictions under Section 181-A of the Cantonments Act, 1924. Ministry of Defence have informed that there was no possibility of framing common building bye-laws for making these applicable to al! cantonments. However, to bring about uniformity in building norms, a committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Defence to examine the matter and make appropriate recommendations in this regard.

7—Z9SGIPMR/99.

Ranger of Kaziranga

1894. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there arc only 150 rangers in Kaziranga to cover 430 Sq. Kms. area;

(b) if so, whether poachers are taking advantage; and

(c) the measures proposed to save the endangered rhinos'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) As informed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam, the total strength of field staff in Kaziranga National Park is 495. However, at present only 410 numbers of field staff including 7 numbers of Forest Rangers arc working in Kaziranga National Park.

(b) The anti-poaching measures in Kaziranga have been quite effective and the number of rhinous killed by poachers has declined considerably.

(c) The measures taken to save the endangered Rhinos are:

(i) A network of 6 wildlife sanctuaries and 3 national parks has been set up for conservation of the species and its habitat. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries, on request from the State Governments. A special scheme of 'Conservation of Rhinos in Assam' has now been transferred to the State Government along with resources since 1992-93 as per the recommendations of the National Development Council.

(ii) Rhino is placed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thus getting the highest level of protection.

(iii) Trading in Rhino parts and products is also banned by law.

(iv) Co-operation of Police, BSF, DRI and Army is also taken, as and when required in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders.

(v) India is a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and abides by the regulations of international trade in endangered species of animals and articles. Under the provisions of the convention, Rhino is covered under Appendix I of CITES which bans international trade in the species, products and derivatives.

(vi) With a view to providing alternative home for Rhinos and also rehabilitating them in their erstwhile habitat, scheme for 'Rehabilitation of Rhinos has been started in Dudhwa National Park and Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh.

(vii) Raids are carried out by the Wildlife authorities whenever information of illegal trading reaches them.

(viii) Sub-regional offices of wildlife preservation is located in Guwahati to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

(ix) A scheme is in operation for payment of reward to the informers, which, among other things, helps in getting inteligencc regarding smuggling of wildlife products.

Cutting subsidy bill on Food-items

1895. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to cut the subsidy bill on food by Rs. 2500 crores;

(b) if so, whether there would be a dual price system of below the poverty level (BPL) and above poverty level (APL) people; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) With a view to neutralising the financial burden consequent upon the hike in MSP of wheat and paddy and grant of bonus over and above the MSP of wheat, and also to containing the food subsidy to a manageable level, the Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice have been revised for APL families only w.e.f. 29.1.99. As a result of this, the subsidy outgo on foodgrains would reduce by about Rs. 300 crores during the current financial year and by about Rs. 2200/- crores during the financial year 1999-2000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice for APL and BPL families effective from 29.1.99 are as under:

Rs./Per Qtl.

Commodity	CIP	FIR
	BPL	APL
Wheat Rice	250	650
Common	350	700*
Grade 'A'	350	905

*Applicable only to J & K, Himachal Pradesh and Hilly areas of N.E. States including Sikkim and U.P.

चीनी और चावल पर राजसहायता

1896. **श्री डी0पी0 यादव** : क्या **खाद्य और उपभोक्ता** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार चीनी और चावल के निर्यात करने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) वर्ष 1998 की समाप्ति पर चावल और चीनी पर कुल कितनी राज-सहायता दी गई थी; और